

Rutland county (Vt.) hist. soc. Publica
I.
Anal. p. 121.
1781. RUTLAND COUNTY. 1881.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

Organization of Rutland County, Vt.,

HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE RUTLAND COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

AT THE TOWN HALL, RUTLAND, VT.,

MARCH 4, 1881.

INCLUDING THE ADDRESSES, HISTORICAL PAPERS, POEMS, ETC., WITH A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE RUTLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SINCE ITS ORGANIZATION.

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY

LYMAN WILLIAMS REDINGTON,
OF RUTLAND, VERMONT.

MONTPELIER:
ARGUS AND PATRIOT BOOK PRINT.
1882.

champion of free speech, who exhibited always his inherent traits of character, whether building gun-boats for the war of 1812, or acting as factor for the Cherokee Indians of Arkansas, or territorial delegate to Congress.

His house in Fairhaven was known as the "Lyons Den," and was considered as something of a Mecca for visitors. After the departure of his family, it was occupied by Maj. Tilly Gilbert, who was a Federalist. Once a visitor asked to be shown the "Lyons Den." Upon being told that he was already in it, he exclaimed, "Is it possible? how did you cleanse it? I should think the walls would be blue with Democracy."

Mr. Lyon sold the iron works to a non-resident, and David Erwin, from New Jersey, carried them on. He became general of the Vermont militia, and subsequently removed to northern New York, where he was elected State Senator. While candidate for that position, he reappeared in the papers an old story about him and Capt. Cutter, of Fairhaven, who had been captain of an artillery company in the Revolutionary war. The story was somewhat distorted, and whether recorded by political allies or opponents is not quite clear, but Capt. Cutter related the facts. He and General Erwin attended a militia muster in Poultney. At the hotel they occupied the same room. Retiring weary and late at night, Capt. Cutter lay down partly dressed. He rose early next morning, and, putting on the only pair of pantaloons he saw in the room, went home. Later in the day Gen. Erwin began to make his toilet, but found himself literally *sans culotte*. He raged about the house as much as was consistent under the circumstances, bringing railing accusations against the landlord. At that time Vermont had no clothing stores, neither had the citizens much superfluous clothing, but something was found which the general wore home. During the day he chanced to meet Capt. Cutter, who was serenely employed at his usual avocations, arrayed in the missing pantaloons, which he had innocently put on over his own.

One of the most eccentric and fantastic characters of early times was Elder Dodge. He professed to be a Baptist clergyman, but came to Fairhaven to carry on the iron works after Gen.